



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney

World Trade Center
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, Va. 23510

757/441-6331

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006
NORFOLK, VA

For further information contact
Deanna Warren 757-441-6331

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Fidel Ibarra-Loredo, age 40, of Exmore, Virginia, pled guilty yesterday to possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Sentencing was set for May 1, 2006. Ibarra faces up to 20 years in prison.

As a result of information obtained by agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained a federal search warrant for defendant Ibarra's residence and business, Taller Los Primos Auto Repair, in Exmore. When the ICE agents executed the search warrant on November 2, 2005, they recovered a bag of cocaine concealed in a flower pot and a .22 caliber semiautomatic rifle and ammunition from the residence. A bag of cocaine was found under the center console of Ibarra's truck. Ibarra is from Mexico and did not enter the United States legally. The case was prosecuted under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)/EXILE.

PSN/EXILE is a federal program that uses a joint federal and state multi-agency approach to targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Most firearms cases involve or are related to drug trafficking. Since its inception in Hampton Roads in late 1997, Project PSN/EXILE has produced over 1094 convictions and removed over 1852 firearms from armed criminals.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe.

###